



City of Scottsdale PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Via Linda Senior Center
10440 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

- PRESENT:** Robert Frost, Chair
John Faramelli, Vice-chair
George Adams
Jeanne Alsbaugh
James Duchene
Ron King
Ronald Petersen
- STAFF:** Steve Lehmann
William Murphy
- GUESTS:** Tony Abraham
Irwin Altman, Little League District President
Kimberly Borges, Mountain View Little League
Jim Burke, Scottsdale Cal Ripken
Tom Diamond,
Larry Heath, Little League
Cherre Jones, Horizon Little League
Randy Malkin, Mountain View Little League Umpire in Chief
Pam Mills, Desert Foothills Little League
Mark Rodriguez, Scottsdale Miss Softball
Rene Salazar, Little League
Vic Skeptaris
Jim Workman, Scottsdale Unified School District
Kevin Young, Scottsdale Cal Ripken

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

It was noted that all Commissioners were present.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE

At the request of Chair Frost, a moment of silence was observed.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Regular Meeting February 20, 2008

VICE CHAIR FARAMELLI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2008 MEETING. COMMISSIONER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

5. STAFF UPDATE ON CURRENT PARKS AND RECREATION FIELD ALLOCATION POLICY

William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director, will provide an update on the city's current field allocation policy, along with current allocations for spring 2008.

Mr. Murphy gave a PowerPoint presentation about the field allocation program, noting that one of the youth groups has made an appeal. Highlights of his presentation include:

- Timeline Slide
- In May of 1991 this was a policy issue resolution number 21 that was adopted by the City Council.
- In November of 1996 City Council adopted the resolution 4646 to add partnership funding by working with the youth groups.
- As of January 2005, this is the current policy being used.
- Partnership funding has been separated from the field allocation.
- The eligibility portion of the allocation process is to provide services to Scottsdale residents, targeted towards 17-year-olds and under.
- Once groups are determined to be eligible, the groups would meet with staff and complete the application form. Based on the information provided and the guidelines, use agreements would be made and permits initiated.

Mr. Lehmann gave a presentation on how the policy is interpreted. Highlights of his presentation include:

- The first priority is to check if the group serves Scottsdale residents. If there is competition for fields staff see how many residents are served by the group. The history of past allocations and how well the group has maintained its past allocations is considered.
- Next there is a review based on the needs of the group, the number of youngsters served, number of practices, size of the team.
- Sports are categorized by season.
- Groups are organized by competitive recreation, the areas in which they serve, league boundaries, open enrollment for players from other cities.
- Whether there are other programs serving the same players in that area.

- Priority goes to groups who serve residents, have a positive history and are recreational. A recreational group has tryouts for players, who are then assigned to teams, not necessarily teams that are coming in already formed.

Traditionally staff have given Little League programs a high priority. The players are playing in their own neighborhoods and the organization is run by volunteers. The more competitive groups such as Play Ball and the Babe Ruth Pony Program have a lower priority.

Mr. Lehmann said he has not taken any space or fields away from Little League programs because more competitive programs have requested their space, even though their older divisions may have more teams than the recreational programs. The higher priority has always gone to the more recreational programs. The policy does not call for organizations to lose time because somebody else is asking for that time, unless there is a major change within the organization. He recalled that at one time in southern Scottsdale, the Little League organizers decided to change affiliations and become a Pony baseball league. It turned out that the Little League had no one signed up in that area. Mr. Lehmann added that staff assign time to club teams, both softball and baseball, but not as high a priority as the recreation programs or the competitive leagues. Staff try to follow the policy consistently from year to year. He stated that the policy does not make it easy for new groups, because it is difficult to address new requests or additional requests from existing groups without affecting existing field allocations. The form asks about other fields that were used and not in the City's inventory, and staff take that into account as well.

Mr. Murphy presented a timeline of the Cal Ripken field request for this year. A request was received to process permits in October. In January staff began processing permit applications. At the same time Cal Ripken met with the Mayor's office, after which staff had some conversations with them. On January 25th some permits were issued for the initial fields they would be using at Grayhawk, Sonoran Hills and Copper Ridge field number 7. On February 8th Mr. Murphy called a meeting with the groups that are listed on the agenda, as well as Irwin Altman of District 6 in order to talk about the policy and see whether any negotiation could take place. Desert Foothills Little League was able to provide them another night of use at the Thunderbird facility. On February 12 staff received the appeal letter from their president Jim Burke, at which time tonight's meeting was scheduled. Mr. Murphy outlined the hours that staff had come up with compared to the time the group asked for, and what the City has done to provide suitable playing fields. He noted that Cal Ripken has also made arrangements with the Scottsdale Unified School District to play exclusively to play exclusively at the south fields at Aztec School. Those hours are not counted in the request of times provided by the City.

Staff examined the areas covered by Cal Ripken. There are 373 players in the Desert Foothills area, there are 42 children in that area playing on Cal Ripken. In East Scottsdale there are 251 participants, with just 11 playing on Cal Ripken. At Horizon there are 229 players and Cal Ripken has 139. He continued to compare the numbers in other parts of the City, which shows a similar picture. The City is aware of a total of 568 players, of whom 374 reside within Scottsdale boundaries.

Commissioner Duchene asked whether the schools that have ballfields are currently being used. Mr. Lehmann explained that staff did not do any research on exactly how many fields, but know that a number of those are used by different leagues that have boundaries within that area.

Commissioner Duchene asked about the exclusive agreement for the Aztec fields with the school district. Mr. Murphy explained that those were not identified in the IGA that staff updated when they did the field maintenance IGA policy. The department has never reserved those fields, primarily because there were some issues of balls going into the neighborhood. The decision to allow Cal Ripken to play at Aztec was made by

them with the school principal. That field is not counted in the inventory of baseball fields. Mr. Murphy confirmed that other school principals could make similar arrangements. Commissioner Duchene suggested that this question warrants further attention, given the nuisance this could pose to neighbors.

Noting that applications are due by the end of August, Commissioner Petersen said he is puzzled why when an application that came in on October 5 was even considered. Mr. Murphy replied that this year none of the groups had their applications in on time. October 5 happened to be the day staff met with Cal Ripken. He admitted that staff have never really enforced the policy about fees and penalties.

Commissioner Duchene asked Mr. Murphy whether Cal Ripken received the number of fields they requested. Mr. Murphy stated that in the past Cal Ripken had used Sundays and also had access to other facilities. The organization had lost access to those facilities and their board had chosen not to use Sunday at all. Mr. Burke requested 197 hours and staff tried to find facilities to meet that request. Due to the League's opening day in February, parents were requesting practice fields. This is why so many hours have been allocated on Saturday. They have in fact been allocated about 230 hours. Commissioner Duchene asked whether Cal Ripken is asking for significantly different time than in previous years. Mr. Lehmann reviewed requests of the past three years, which have been fairly constant. The biggest change is their board took the decision that playing on Sunday is not an option, and they are unable to use some fields in Paradise Valley.

Commissioner King asked whether Cal Ripken is considered competitive or recreational. Mr. Lehmann explained they have both levels in the organization. Commissioner King asked whether neighborhood groups get preference over groups that serve larger areas. Mr. Lehmann explained that although the policy is not absolutely written that way, it has been interpreted in that sense.

Chair Frost asked Mr. Lehmann to confirm that the Cal Ripken request for fields includes not only recreational teams but also the competitive teams. Mr. Lehmann confirmed that is the case.

Commissioner Adams asked why the City gives preference to recreational teams. Mr. Lehmann said it is a question of tradition to serve the basic recreational needs of young people.

Commissioner Duchene thanked staff for the excellent information they presented. He asked whether anybody has complained about what they have been asked to give up, and whether the Cal Ripken organization is challenging that the allocation is insufficient as of today. Mr. Murphy said that they received Mr. Burke's letter on February 12th. By the end of that work week staff had the revised allocations figured out. He noted that some other groups may be affected, however staff tried to discuss the changes with those parties.

6. CAL RIPKIN FIELD ALLOCATION APPEAL

Jim Burke, president of Scottsdale Cal Ripken organization has requested an appeal of their 2008 field allocation. He will provide a presentation for the Commission based on his appeal. The appeal of Cal Ripken will impact the following Little Leagues:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| McDowell Mountain Little League: | Tony Abraham, president |
| Mountain View Little League: | Kimberly Borges, president |
| Desert Foothills Little League: | Marni Hirshman, president |
| Horizon Little League: | Cherre Jones, president |

Scottsdale Miss Softball

Vince Marchetti, president

Chair Frost clarified that the Commission is not being asked to change the field allocation policy, as a group is currently working on making changes for future years. The Commission can simply grant or deny the appeal.

Mr. Jim Burke, President of Scottsdale Cal Ripken, presented his appeal. He stated that his group has over 600 players aged 4 to 12 in 51 teams. He outlined the needs for games and practices for the teams. They figured they needed 61 weekday hours and 25 Saturday hours. Having lit fields on weekdays is the key to their system. Noting this was discussed at the last Task Force meeting, a lot of organizations are able to give their younger children two games a week. He explained the error that had led them to request less than what was needed. The original permit gave them 11 weekday slots and 9 Saturday slots at Greyhawk and Sonoran Villas. This was a shortfall of 50 hours from their original request; with the new model they were 64 hours short on weekdays and 16 hours short on Saturdays.

The current shortfall now is 51 weekday hours and 11 Saturday hours. The group checked under-utilized fields and learned that they were the only league actually complaining. If a lit field is only being used once a night, they would typically put two games on. Cal Ripken schedules games back to back with no warm-ups and a two-hour time limit. Apparently no one has ever appealed before. He acknowledged that the City has responded by trying to help them out. His organization has invested money in fields that schools subsequently took over. The organization has had no way to invest any equity into any of these fields to try to improve them or build a history.

Mr. Burke emphasized that all children should be given a chance to play no matter which program they are in. All they are asking for is equitable distribution of a City resource. He stated that they are part of the Babe Ruth program, which has over a million players nationwide. The Scottsdale organization is all volunteers and is a 501(c)(3). He noted that last year one team went all the way to the World Series. Currently they have eight divisions and are trying to add another one. He reviewed their boundaries, noting the diversity of the teams. Their charter gives a lot of flexibility. This year they did not advertise the sign-up because they already have so many players. He reviewed the league composition and added that Babe Ruth wants to provide opportunities for physically challenged kids, but right now there are no facilities. Cal Ripken does not have any club teams that come in and pay a separate fee. One of the biggest selling points for the league is that generally players stay together with the same team mates as the seasons go by. They do not believe in ultra-competitive programs. He stated that historically the organization has had problems with space shortages.

Mr. Burke noted that hours allocated have to be age appropriate. He acknowledged that the City has done a very good job, which is appreciated. The organization uses all the hours they are given, whereas a lot of leagues start their games at 6:30 p.m. He added that the lit fields can carry at least two games a night and at least six to twelve games on a weekend.

Turning to the question of residency, Mr. Burke noted that only a couple of organizations had residency adjustments made. He added that many children who play in Little League go to private schools. Whatever set of criteria is used to measure the number of Scottsdale verified children should be applied to all organizations. Many Scottsdale children would like to play and do not get that opportunity. He outlined the original request, the allocation they received and the additional fields they are able to use. He explained that the organization has a very complex schedule which had numerous changes. At this point they would like more weekday hours and are prepared to donate Saturday hours to other groups. He summarized that Cal Ripken represents a large segment of Scottsdale children, who are not paid athletes, and should not be discriminated against. Reviewing the criteria, he noted that

groups and organizations serving Scottsdale residents are eligible. Just because some groups have a history with the City should not bar other groups from receiving an allocation. He opined that the lighted fields should be used efficiently. The allocation policy should take into consideration the current needs of the various groups. The most important is building relationships between the youth leagues so that all the children who want to play have that opportunity.

Chair Frost asked Mr. Burke to confirm that he was asking the Commission to deny the current allocation of fields made by allocation committee. Mr. Burke replied that the committee has done a great job. However, the landscape has changed and his group is still short.

Commissioner Adams noted he was confused about the numbers of players discussed. He asked Mr. Burke how many children are in his league. Mr. Burke replied 604. He clarified that they submitted a number in August, then added more children but not more teams. They had started with 51 teams and then reduced that to 50. He elaborated on the calculations they had done, taking into account students of Scottsdale schools who live outside the City, people in zip code 85254, which is not entirely within the City, et cetera.

Commissioner Adams asked Mr. Burke why they want to limit their fields to a narrow area if the league boundaries are so broad. Mr. Burke responded that the league has not turned any field allocations down and has gone as far as Mesa for fields, although they prefer not to. A majority of the players live in a fairly small area with few living south of Shea Boulevard.

Commissioner Adams asked him what is the league doing without. Mr. Burke replied the league is operating at a low standard. They run events back to back, and their efficiency is a lot tighter.

Saying that he was glad they were having this discussion, Commissioner Duchene noted a need for more baseball fields. He asked Mr. Burke whether there is a gross inequity that needs to be addressed or has the league encountered an unfortunate situation by losing some fields in Paradise Valley and deciding not to play on Sunday and as a result is short some fields.

Mr. Burke replied that the league was tired of putting up with not having the practice fields. Parents were complaining. He opined that the composition of the board made a big difference. In the past they never scheduled any Sunday games unless they were rain outs. He noted that they lost some fields the league was paying for.

Commissioner Duchene asked him if they were offered the same hours and field usage this year as in the last couple of years. Mr. Burke said that was all they could get. Meanwhile the number of players in the league keeps growing. Their expectations are also rising; they now realize the children should get a practice and two games and should not have to stay out until 10:00 P.M. They have a responsibility do what is right for all the players.

Commissioner Adams disclosed that his son plays in Scottsdale Cal Ripken and really enjoys it. He also participates in Little League. Commissioner Adams said he understands the benefits of both the competitive and the participative side of the leagues. He asked Mr. Burke whether consideration has been given to building facilities at schools.

Mr. Burke replied that in the past they have provided Aztec with a good facility for young children. Their players have practiced in wash areas and in grass areas, anywhere flat they could find. However for games, they need a safer playing environment.

Commissioner Petersen asked whether last year's allocations were satisfactory. Mr. Burke explained that they had no practice time. Commissioner Petersen asked if this discussion is taking place because the Cal Ripken board made a conscious decision not to play on Sunday and decided not to use other fields like Paradise Valley school district or the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Burke said there are many misconceptions and this is a complex question.

Commissioner Petersen asked why this is an issue today and not last year. Mr. Burke reiterated that the league had never played much on Sundays. The space at the Boys and Girls Club never materialized. They lost the use of some fields they had been paying for. The board had been under the impression that other groups were not receiving fields for practices. He concluded that this is a very difficult and time-consuming process.

Commissioner Petersen asked why they rejected the El Dorado facilities. Mr. Burke said that El Dorado was on Saturday only and was not needed. Commissioner Petersen said to him it is important that this Commission and staff serve the residents of Scottsdale. Why should this league receive priority over those that are almost 100% Scottsdale residents?

Mr. Burke replied that due to the nature of Scottsdale and Phoenix, most leagues have members living in Phoenix. Even if they cut the league down to 41 teams, they are still at a 61-slot deficit. In the past they have operated under the format where they are the only ones that had their numbers adjusted and would be competing against other areas that had not had their numbers adjusted. He opined that if one takes any group of children and spreads them out, it will look pretty weak. The children deserve to be treated equally.

Citing a newspaper article, Commissioner Petersen asked whether the organization is still threatening litigation. Mr. Burke said they never threatened litigation. He reiterated that there are many misconceptions. His organization is working strictly through the policy.

Chair Frost opened the floor to testimony from other organizations, followed by members of the public. Explaining that this was Mr. Burke's appeal, he announced that speakers would be allotted three minutes each.

Mr. Tony Abraham, President, McDowell Mountain Little League acknowledged that the Commission is faced with a very difficult decision. He gave a brief PowerPoint presentation showing their boundary lines, stressing that they are a community organization that takes every child who wants to play regardless of financial considerations. He stated that Cal Ripken has about 43 players living within their boundaries, compared to their membership of 402. They have experienced significant growth over last few years, which places a strain on the fields. He stated they have invested approximately \$25,000 just this year to improve the fields for the smaller children. Two years ago they spent \$15,000 to create a playground.

Commissioner Duchene raised a point of order, noting that at the previous evening's Youth Sports Task Force meeting the groups were led to believe they would have more time to make their presentations, and had prepared accordingly. Mr. Murphy confirmed this. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow five-minute presentations. Chair Frost noted they received copies of all the emails and he read them all.

At the prompting of Commissioner Duchene, Chair Frost asked Mr. Abraham if there was anything he wanted to add to his presentation. Mr. Abraham said his other slides had to do with capital improvements done at McDowell Mountain Ranch.

In response to a question by Chair Frost, Mr. Murphy noted that construction on Grayhawk Park will begin this summer and will be ready for play in latter part of 2009.

Ms. Kimberly Borges of Mountain View Little League stated they are strictly a volunteer-based league. Last year they had 504 players, of which only 4 resided outside of Scottsdale. For 2008 they anticipate the final numbers being within 5% of the 2007 numbers. All of their players reside near or immediately surrounding the fields where they play. They view their relationship with the City as a partnership. Improvements they make are considered to be community enhancements. Her PowerPoint presentation addressed in detail what allocations their league utilized.

Pam Mills, Vice President, Desert Foothills Little League, stated that their organization hosts The Challengers, which is a group of 26 mentally and physically disabled children from around the Valley on a weekly basis, with help from the older players in their league. She outlined how their organization uses their field allocation and noted that they have given up some slots to Cal Ripken.

Cherre Jones, President of Horizon Little League, distributed a handout. She explained that their boundaries were established in 1990, and consequently half the players are from Phoenix and half are from Scottsdale. Grayhawk is the only lit field within their boundaries. 370 children play on 30 baseball teams. Since 2004 their numbers have stayed consistent. Their boundaries are small because Little League is about community and for the children to have fun. Without being able to play at Grayhawk, there would not be a Horizon Little League. Ms. Jones outlined improvements they have made, including an \$11,000 scoreboard installed last year, and \$25,000 for safety awnings in 2006 and 2007. She noted that on Saturday they share the field with Cal Ripken. They are maxing out their use of the field for games, not practices. The league has played there since it was built 12 years ago and it is considered their home field.

Mr. Mark Rodriguez, incoming President of Scottsdale Miss Softball, addressed the meeting. This is the only softball program in the entire city, serving 1100 girls on 85 teams. The majority of the girls registered live north of Shea Boulevard. The organization was established 37 years ago. Until this year to his knowledge, they never had any practice fields. Mr. Rodriguez noted that their enrollment stays consistent from year to year.

Little League District President Mr. Irwin Altman gave a brief presentation about Little League. It is the only congressionally granted federal youth sports organization. Little League values are character, courage and loyalty with a "Take All Comers" philosophy. He stressed that all of their boards are completely volunteer. Special programs include sexual abuse prevention, child protection, and the Challenger program. Little League places a heavy emphasis on safety, which has resulted in injury rate reductions. Thorough background checks are done for all individuals who have repetitive contact with players. He noted that Little League has partnered with the City of Scottsdale for over 50 years. It would be a mistake to ignore that when deciding upon the field allocation policy. Last year Little League spent \$147,754 on field improvements in Scottsdale. He commented that without some reasonable expectation for having the same fields allocated there is really no chance that the organization will continue paying for those improvements.

Chair Frost welcomed input from members of the public, noting a three-minute limit. During the public testimony he noted comment cards from attendees who did not wish to speak.

Mr. Vic Skeptaris said everyone is hoping for a fair and equitable application of the rules of the field allocation policy. Newcomers should be treated on an equal footing. He hoped the Commission will look at this in fairness and give all children a chance to play.

Jim Workman, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor for Scottsdale Unified School District, clarified that the building maintenance department has control over school fields, not the school principals. In the case of Aztec 1 and 2 they moved the two backstops because

neighbors complained. He stated he has worked with many people that have spoken tonight on different things in the district. They do their best to try to foster a good relationship with the City and all the sports organizations. He has received hundreds of positive feedback emails from people telling him about how much the better the fields are. He expressed appreciation to the City.

Mr. Randy Malkin, Umpire in chief for Mountain View Little League, stressed the importance of being able to train junior umpires. This teaches young men how to be in charge, address adults, and respect those adults. This is a life-changing experience.

Chair Frost stated that Mr. Larry Heath had six minutes to address the Commission as another citizen donated their time for his presentation. Mr. Heath of Little League opined there is an unnecessary emphasis being placed on lit fields. They are able to put on three games a week. No one spoke to the Little League before they went to mayor or the media to try and form a partnership. He feels that Cal Ripken challenged what Little League is all about. Little League spearheaded the initiative to create the IGA Mr. Workman discussed. This has been a tremendous success. He has spent hundreds of hours on field improvements. He outlined Little League's history with the City, showing the field improvements they have made and paid for.

Mr. Kevin Young spoke in support of Scottsdale Cal Ripken. Since retiring from 12 years in major league baseball, becoming a coach has been a huge gratification. The toughest thing has been that although the children have had the opportunity to play, he has never had the opportunity to coach them during practices. When game starts, coaching is over. He acknowledged that no one wants to come off their fields, but some groups are able to have three games a week and one practice and another organization has two games a week and no practice time. He stated they have exhausted all measures they could come up with. They are asking the baseball community for assistance. As a league all they would need is two games a week and one practice. He expressed appreciation for being around so many people who truly care about baseball.

Mr. Rene Salazar, a local resident, said he is struggling with the concept being presented. He noted that Cal Ripken has teams in other cities in the Valley. Why would field allocations be given to an organization with so many members outside of Scottsdale?

Mr. Tom Diamond of North Scottsdale Little League noted there is a need to help maintain practice fields in coordination with the City. Once the season starts, their league, with 35 teams, has two skinned infields to practice on at Cherokee, which they maintain. They put in the mounds and backstops. These fields are not watered and are always brown dirt with gopher holes and tall grass in the outfield. He built a baseball field in his backyard and a lot of practices take place at coaches' homes. He shares the frustration that Cal Ripken talks about, and wants to let them know they have no spare times on lit fields. He said that Cal Ripken has to find time somehow. His league deals with that and the parents are happy to make the best of it. They are fortunate the league has fundraising abilities.

Chair Frost thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for volunteering their time for the youth in the community. The Commission has heard the appeal from Cal Ripken of the field allocations granted them. The Commission's responsibility is to move to deny the appeal and approve the field allocations as recommended by staff; or to move to grant the appeal and direct staff to reallocate and redistribute field allocations among the impacted groups.

Commissioner Faramelli commented that now he understands the frustration of the Cal Ripken program. He opined there is only one solution, which is to keep on pushing for more fields. He asked Mr. Murphy whether the fields in the southern Scottsdale schools are all being fully utilized. Mr. Murphy confirmed that they are.

Chair Frost recalled there has been a continuing field allocation problem over the last 37 years. There are always tough decisions to make. Neighbors do not want lighted fields in the future parks. He stated that the Youth Sports Task Force, of which Commissioner Petersen is a member, is working on a policy for next year.

Commissioner Duchene disclosed he has been a Little League board member, assuring the meeting that this does not influence his approach tonight. This is a classic win/lose situation. The Commission and staff need to try to find solutions, because the users should not be pitted one against the other. The Youth Sports Task Force is helping to come up with some corrective actions for the future. He noted that many other considerations come into play, such as equipment storage, parking, and access. Is there a way to make better, more efficient use of fields for games? This could free up some slots. He opined that some of Cal Ripken's unfortunate circumstances are partly of their own doing.

Commissioner Adams said he would like to influence the body of people representing many leagues to work together. This is a community issue and should not be framed as competitive versus recreational. Right now Cal Ripken feels slighted, and Little League is pointing to the investments they have made in field improvements. This is all about children playing baseball.

COMMISSIONER PETERSON MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL AND APPROVE ALLOCATIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF FOR 2008. COMMISSIONER DUCHENE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

Chair Frost thanked everyone for coming.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORT

The Commissioners will give updates on events and activities they have attended since the last Commission meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to reschedule the tour to a Friday to be arranged by staff.

Commissioner Faramelli stated he visited Mountain View Park, where he watched rugby, soccer, and lacrosse. He estimated that 200-300 children were participating.

Commissioner King said the new tennis courts at Scottsdale Ranch Park are nearly ready.

Commissioner Alspaugh judged the dance contest at El Dorado. It was a hugely successful evening and she went in costume.

Commissioner Petersen thanked staff from various departments in the City for their tireless efforts with the Task Force. Mr. Murphy added that the Task Force had its third meeting last night. He described the materials that staff sent out today, asking for comments by March 24th. At the next meeting on March 27th, they hope to begin fine-tuning. He hopes to bring the revised policy to the Commission in the latter part of April.

Chair Frost suggested it might be prudent to ensure that the new fields at Grayhawk Community Park are included in the mix. Commissioner Faramelli commented there is talk of closing Pima School, which could result in the loss of three or four fields. It was noted that other schools may be closed too. Mr. Murphy said the school closures, if implemented, would have an impact on current fields. Discussion ensued. Mr. Murphy said he does not

know how the process would work at this point. Chair Frost opined the Commission needs to jump on this and be prepared to take over fields if necessary.

Commissioner Duchene stated he is a member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Scottsdale School District. He said the school district has been in touch with Mr. Murphy and knows that the City would love to have more fields. He added that there is talk of building a new gymnasium at Aztec School.

Commissioner Duchene asked how the field allocation issue is to be communicated to City Council. Mr. Murphy replied that staff provide an update to Council every Thursday. He has already shared many of the emails received on this topic with Council. Commissioner Duchene stressed that Council should hear that the Commission does not regard tonight's appeal as over and done with; there are more things they would like to look at. Mr. Murphy said that the minutes from this meeting will be forwarded to City Council.

Chair Frost undertook to draft an email summarizing the salient points of the discussion for City Council.

Commissioner Duchene asked for an update on Camelback Park.

Commissioner Alsbaugh thanked Mr. Murphy and department staff. As a new member she really appreciates all the documents they provide.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director, will update the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions. This includes, but is not limited to, updates on programming, special events, calendars, and upcoming meetings.

Mr. Murphy stated more fields at Yavapai will be lit later in the summer. Improvements at Chaparral have been implemented. The Scottsdale Ranch tennis courts are nearly ready. Lighting, some ancillary areas, and concrete work remain to be done. Camelback Park is progressing well. The earth moving is going quickly because they hope to be on schedule to put grass down in June and have it open later this fall.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens may address the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission during Public Comment. This "Public Comment" time is reserved for citizen comments regarding non-agendized items. However, Arizona State Law prohibits the Parks and Recreation Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not on the prepared agenda.

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V-Tronics, Inc.

Meets established criteria.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William B. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

William B. Murphy, Director
Parks and Recreation